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most powerful of allies" in socialism (p. 273). Character will make socialism possible and socialism will make character—such seems to be the conclusion at which the author has arrived.

Whatever may be said in criticism the book is meritorious and will be read with keen interest. The literary style is excellent and enriched by apt quotations from some of the best writers in the English and in continental languages. We doubt if the beliefs here expounded will receive general acceptance among orthodox clericals or the general rank and file of socialists, but for the general reader this will detract little from their interest.

The History of the British Post-Office. By J. C. HEMMEON. Cambridge: Harvard University, 1912. 8vo, pp. vi+256. \$2.00 net.

The British Post-office, like all other British institutions of long standing, has had a most intricate and involved history. It has successfully met the needs of the people and of the government under conditions which to us would seem quite impossible. As a system it has been neither logical nor uniform.

To the most difficult task of presenting historically the facts connected with its peculiar and many-sided development, this book is devoted. Commencing at about the end of the fifteenth century the author has traced chronologically in his first four chapters the growth and evolution of the Post-office in all its different branches, through its successive transformations down to the present time. In these chapters a tremendous conglomerate of facts illustrative of the most salient features of the development is presented to the reader. Every happening or event of any importance and indeed many which can hardly be said to be of any interest are here recorded.

In the remaining chapters some of the more important aspects of the problem have been singled out to receive consideration in "longitudinal section." Of these might be mentioned the chapter on "Foreign Connections," which considers the ocean carriage of mails, the system of subsidies to authorized lines and understandings with other nations; that on the "Telegraph System," which since 1868 has been a branch of the Post-office—special regard being here paid to its finances; and on the relation between the Post-office and Telephone companies which have been licensed by it.

The book is excellent. It is quite evidently the result of considerable and careful research. It must be criticized however in that being so entirely a narration of facts, those events which really are of great significance have not been sufficiently emphasized. A little weighting of facts would have been an improvement. One would like to have seen, too, some little interpretation.

The Socialist Argument. By CHARLES C. HITCHCOCK. Chicago: Charles H. Kerr & Co., 1912. 8vo, pp. 174.

This is the work of an amateur in socialism. Unfortunately such dilettantism in socialist literature is of frequent occurrence. After a careful perusal